February 12, 2018

AAAS Statement on President's 2019 Budget Plan

"If enacted, President Trump's proposed budget for fiscal year 2019 would dismantle the science and technology enterprise in the United States. Thankfully, Congress effectively shelved this disastrous proposal before it was even released in passing a two-year budget agreement that raised caps for discretionary spending. In his recent State of the Union address, the President said that Americans 'push the bounds of science and discovery.' We cannot push the bounds of discovery by following a blueprint that would drastically cut research funding. Our nation has long benefited from bipartisan and public support of federal investment in research and development, providing the foundation for a strong economy. Attempts to slash science and engineering programs threaten our strength at home and abroad and would limit opportunities to find treatments for disease, develop cutting-edge energy technologies and equip students to become the scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs we need to solve the challenges ahead. We urge Congress to continue to act in the public's best interest and fund critical investments in scientific research by quickly completing a fiscal 2018 omnibus spending bill that empowers our nation's innovation enterprise and demonstrates leadership in science and technology.

– Rush Holt, chief executive officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

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